

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method of erecting a utility pole comprising the steps of:

fabricating a plurality of tubular sections of utility poles each having at least a portion tapered;

the diameter of at least one of said plurality of tubular sections being larger than the diameter of another;

bringing the at least one of said plurality of tubular sections and the another of said plurality of tubular sections to a site for erection;

pulling the at least one and the another tubular sections together with an apparatus that provides short repeated pulling strokes prior to erecting the utility pole; and

erecting the utility pole.

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 in which the step of pulling the tubular sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of the utility pole;

attaching a bracket to a second section of the utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to an arm;

connecting the arm to the bracket; and

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said arm.

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 2 further including the step of resetting said arm.

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 in which the step of resetting includes the step of moving said arm away from a gripping member and dropping it onto the gripping member.

5. (previously presented) A method of pulling sections of a utility pole together prior to erecting the utility pole, comprising the steps of:

attaching an apparatus that provides short repeated pulling strokes to a first section;

attaching a bracket to a second section;

connecting the apparatus that provides repeated pulling strokes to the bracket, whereby the first and second sections are pulled together while the first and second sections are horizontal when the apparatus is performing a pulling stroke; and

resetting the apparatus between pulling strokes.

6. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 5 in which the step of pulling the sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of the utility pole;

attaching the bracket to the second section of utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to an arm;

connecting the arm to the bracket;

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said arm.

7. (original) A method in accordance with claim 6 further including the step of resetting said arm.

8. (original) A method in accordance with claim 7 in which the step of resetting includes the step of moving said arm away from a gripping member and dropping it onto the gripping member.

9. (currently amended) A method of erecting a utility pole comprising the steps of:
fabricating tubular sections of utility poles;
bringing at least two of the tubular sections of said utility poles to a site for erecting the utility pole;

pulling at least two of the at least two tubular ~~the~~ sections together to assemble the utility pole with short repeated strokes by ~~manually~~ adjusting the position of a flexible member connecting a tug bracket fastened to one of the at least two tubular sections and a pull arm driven by a power source fastened to the other of the at least two tubular sections; and

erecting the utility pole after the tubular sections have been assembled.

10. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 9 in which a first location on the flexible member is attached to one of the tug bracket and pull arm tubular section and a plurality

of other locations on the flexible member include gripping means for gripping the other of the tug bracket and pull arm ~~a second tubular section~~.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus for pulling two at least partly tubular sections of a utility pole together prior to erecting the utility pole comprising:

a hydraulic pump;

at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston connected to a first of the two at least partly tubular ~~section~~ sections of a utility pole, said hydraulic cylinder including ~~and having~~ a piston rod connected to said piston;

at least one bracket;

at least one movable connecting member;

said at least one movable connecting member being connected at one location on the one movable connecting member to the piston rod of said at least one hydraulic cylinder and at any of a plurality of other locations on the movable connecting member to said at least one bracket whereby the tubular sections of a utility pole may be pulled together;

said at least one bracket including means for fastening the at least one bracket to ~~one a~~ second of said two at least partly tubular sections of a utility pole.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 in which at least one of said bracket and movable connecting member has a plurality of cam surfaces adapted to move the at least one movable connecting member to a height where it can clear the bracket; said movable connecting

member including at least one gripping means for connecting to said bracket on a retraction stroke of said hydraulic cylinder.

13. (currently amended) Apparatus for pulling two sections of a utility pole together comprising:

a hydraulic pump;

a hydraulic cylinder adapted to be mounted to one of the two sections of the utility pole;

a tug bracket;

said tug bracket including means for fastening the tug bracket to the other one of said two sections;.

a flexible member having one end connected to the tug bracket and the other end connected to a piston of the hydraulic cylinder;

the length of said flexible member between the piston and the tug bracket being adjustable, whereby on an extension stroke, the flexible member is adjusted and on a retraction stroke, the sections are pulled together.

14. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 in which the step of pulling the at least one and the another tubular sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of the utility pole;

attaching a bracket to a second section of the utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to a flexible member;

connecting the flexible member to the bracket; and

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said flexible member.

15. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 3 in which the step of resetting said arm comprises the step of resetting said arm without manually adjusting said apparatus between strokes.

16. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 5 in which the step of resetting the apparatus comprises the step of automatically resetting a position with respect to said bracket of an arm that is connected to move with a piston rod during one of an extension and retraction of the piston rod between strokes without manually adjusting said apparatus .